

# SNAP-SHOTS

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## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS!

As is the case for many, the month of December for us here at V&O is undoubtedly our busiest. With all the planning, shopping, packing, deliveries, gift exchanges, events and visits that go on, it's easy to get caught up in the flurry of logistics and lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas. This year early on in the month, our team decided we wanted to make an extra effort to help remind ourselves and others, that amid the fun and festivities of the season, (which we're all still free to enjoy), the *real* reason behind why we celebrate, remains as always... "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

Almighty God sent His greatest gift to the world! His one and only perfect, sinless Son, Jesus Christ was born to die, so that we might live. *This* is the reason we can *truly* celebrate Christmas!

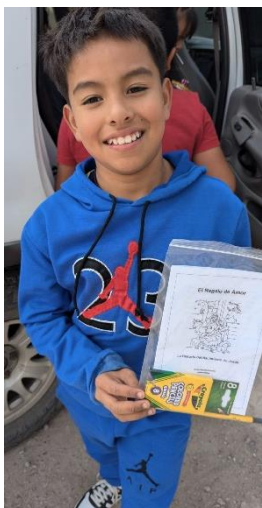


**LEFT:** Celebrating the reason for the season with the kids & staff at SIMNSA Children's Home in Rosarito. A big thanks to Adriana Hasser (who creates our kids monthly Bible lesson books), for rearranging her work schedule last week, especially so that she could meet and teach the kids in person for the first time. (Thanks also to husband Scott, behind the camera!)

**ABOVE:** Adriana, (in front of tree), with the kids and staff who made and shared cards and notes of encouragement as their Christmas gifts to each other.

**RIGHT:** The kids also made and signed their names on banners which read, "La Navidad celebra el regalo mas grande el nacimiento de Jesús en nuestra corazon." Translated... "Christmas celebrates the greatest gift, the birth of Jesus in our hearts."

(Pizza & cookies were enjoyed by all afterwards!)



**LEFT:** Kids at Casa de Gracia Children's Home, and in the barrios also received Christmas story activity books and made nativity lanterns.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."  
John 8:12





Jair (V&O helper), showing the kids how to make their lanterns.

The kids at Las Memorias Hospice, (where they live with terminally ill parents), also enjoyed making nativity lanterns with Hortencia and the team. They received hats, gloves and their Christmas gifts and treats on behalf of you all!



**GRACIAS!**



(Left to Right) Leslie, Belen, Hortencia & Paty with the food dispenser items.

**THE FOOD SIDE OF THINGS**

This year with our budget a little tighter, Hortencia and the team worked diligently to find food items that fitted inside it, but also still provided over 150 families in need with some special ingredients to make a Christmas meal. They did a great job of hunting out bargains and negotiating deals and discounts with local vendors, before packing and delivering the food dispensers to each special family. Their efforts were very much appreciated by the recipients who also received a warm blanket too!



Bagged and ready to go! (Bags made by V&O sewers).

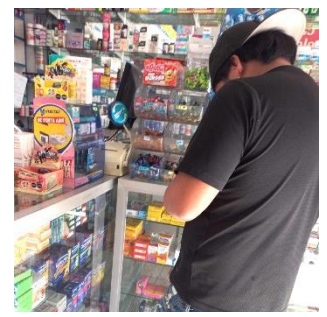
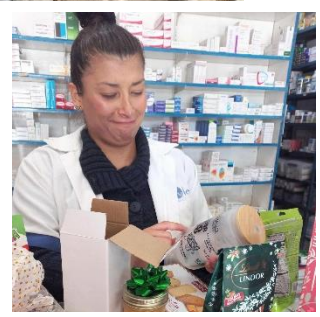


**THANK YOU!**

Christmas isn't a big thing for many of the families we work with, it can't be; there isn't enough money to spend on a luxury like Christmas. So although it may not seem like much to many of us, these gifts mean a lot to them. Thank you so much for your part in making them possible!

**ANOTHER SPECIAL DELIVERY...**

Every year we stop by to deliver a gift of appreciation to local people who help us minister to the poor. Eva who works in the pharmacy was looking a little exhausted by the workload she'd been under, while her boss had been away for the week. As she opened her gift and began reading the "Promises of God" scripture verses on a glass drinking flask we bought her, tears filled her eyes. "God really loves me," she said, "I so needed this today. Thank you." It made our day.



A young man came into the pharmacy while we were there and was curious to know what Eva was reading. He carefully read each verse also and Eva told him the promises were for him too.



Sincere thanks were in order again also for Dr Santos, his wife, son and their team who have provided yet another year of expertise, assistance and care for the patients we bring into their clinic. Often going above and beyond to help, giving priority and charging minimally to help the people we serve, we give thanks to God for them and the important work they do. Each one received a gift bag of (mostly) healthy goodies and a letter of thanks on behalf of us all. (And gifted from them to us were some eternal silk roses!)

**Left to right: Dr. Santos Jnr., Dr. Martinez, Hortencia, Dr. Flores, Dr. Santos Snr. & Yair (V&O Helper).**  
*(Dr. Santo's wife who is a nurse, and another young doctor weren't able to be there for the photo).*



## TOY DELIVERIES

This year as like last, deliveries to families have been going on since the first week of December and will continue through until 3 Kings Day, (Mexico Holiday), on January 6<sup>th</sup> reaching around 500 kids.



## HAPPY SMILES make it all worthwhile!



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Mt. 19:14

Cont...





GRACIAS!

Thank you for bringing a little Christmas joy to kids in the barrios of Tijuana...

...and to some of the adults too!



Left: Lupé works as a parking attendant 6 days a week. Recently he was sick for 10 days, (likely due to being outside in the cold so much). He was so grateful to receive some thermal items of clothing from a donor who heard about it.



Above & left: The hard working staff at SIMNSA received gifts also!

We appreciate the privilege of representing you here across the border and hope that you had a blessed and meaningful Christmas!

From us all here at V&O, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

